

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAN JO 00165 130224Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 HA-05  
/072 W

-----002528 130230Z /41/12

R 112155Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9829  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0165

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MANAGUA ADDED AS INFO ADDEE)

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, NU, CS  
SUBJ: LOCAL REACTION TO DEATH OF PJ CHAMORRO

REF: MANAGUA 0090

1. ASSASSINATION OF PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO HAS GENERATED CONSIDERABLE LOCAL REACTION. INCIDENT HAS BEEN DOMINANT NEWS STORY SINCE FIRST REPORTS RECEIVED BY LOCAL MEDIA MORNING 10 JANUARY. NEWS ACCOUNTS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN FACTUAL AND STRAIGHTFORWARD.

2. AS COULD BE EXPECTED, REACTION TO CHAMORRO'S DEATH IS STRONGEST AMONG HIS JOURNALIST COLLEAGUES. MANY WERE LONGTIME FRIENDS WHO HAD WORKED CLOSELY WITH HIM FOR OVER TWO DECADES. AMONG LATTER IS LA NACION DIRECTOR GUEQ FERNANDEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (SIP). CHAMARRO HAD BEEN THE COMMITTEE'S VICE-PRESIDENT.

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3. CHAMORRO IS BEING EULOGIZED BY ALL SECTORS IN COSTA RICA AS A MARTYR, DEFENDER OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, FIGHTER FOR DEMOCRACY AND GREAT JOURNALIST. FOR THE MOMENT, SPECIFIC POLITICAL COMMENTARY ON CHAMORRO'S MURDER HAS BEEN AVOIDED IN THE MEDIA. ONE EXCEPTION IS THE REACTION OF OPPOSITION, ANTI-SOMOZA LA REPUBLICA, WHICH COMMENTED: "IT IS NOT KNOWN WHO KILLED HIM. BUT IT IS KNOWN WHO PREPARED THE WAY FOR THE CRIME. THE DICTATORSHIP AND THE CLOSED

POLITICAL GROUP THAT RUNS IT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION  
BECAUSE THEY HAVE CREATED THE CONDITIONS FOR WHATEVER THE TRAGEDY  
IN NICARAGUA, PERSONAL OR SOCIAL".  
WEISSMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
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